

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Original) A data management method for managing original data and derivative data by relating the original data and the derivative data, the derivative data being generated through editing processing on the original data, the data management method comprising the steps of:

generating link information for linking the original data and the derivative data and editing information representing the content of the editing processing; and

attaching the link information and the editing information to the original data and the derivative data as accompanying information thereof.

2. (Original) A data management apparatus for managing original data and derivative data by relating the original data and the derivative data, the derivative data being generated through editing processing on the original data, the data management apparatus comprising:

accompanying information generation means for generating accompanying information comprising link information for linking the original data and the derivative data and editing information representing the content of the editing processing; and

accompanying information attaching means for attaching the accompanying information generated by the accompanying information generation means to the original data and the derivative data.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) A computer readable recording medium storing thereon a program for causing a computer to execute steps of managing original data and derivative data by relating the original data and the derivative data, the derivative data being generated through editing processing on the original data, the program comprising the steps of:

generating link information for linking the original data and the derivative data and editing information representing the content of the editing processing; and

attaching the link information and the editing information to the original data and the derivative data as accompanying information thereof.

5. (Previously Presented) A data management method, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the accompanying information is inseparably attached to each of the original data and the derivative data.

6. (Previously Presented) A data management method, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the editing processing includes at least one of copying for generating the derivative data that have exactly the same content as the original data, processing for obtaining the derivative data by modifying the original data, and image processing on the original data in the case where the original data are image data.

7. (Previously Presented) A data management method, as defined in Claim 6, wherein the copying processing includes processing for sending the original data from a system in which the original data are stored to another system.

8. (Previously Presented) A data management method, as defined in Claim 7, wherein the copying processing includes processing for sending the original data from a computer having the original data to another computer connected to the computer through one of a network and a serial connection.

9. (Previously Presented) A data management method, as defined in Claim 8, wherein the network includes one of a LAN and a WAN such as the Internet.

10. (Previously Presented) A data management method, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the link information is information that enables a user to directly or indirectly refer to either of the original data and the derivative data from the other data.

11. (Previously Presented) A data management method, as defined in Claim 10, wherein the link information includes the name of the other data, and wherein the link information further includes at least one of a location of the other data and a pointer indicating the location thereof.

12. (Previously Presented) A data management method, as defined in Claim 11, wherein the pointer is the URL of the derivative data in the case where the derivative data are stored in a Web server.

13. (Previously Presented) A data management method, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the accompanying information is attached to each of the original data and the derivative data by using one of a method of describing the accompanying information in header information in each of the original data and the derivative data, a method of describing the accompanying information in tag information of each of the original data and the derivative data if the original data and the derivative data are image data, and a method of writing accompanying information generated according to an XML in a predetermined area of each of the original data and the derivative data.

14. (New) A data management method, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the original data and at least two sets of derivative data are managed as a tree structure.

15 (New) A data management method, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the data management method further manages another derivative data which is generated through editing processing on said derivative data derived from the original data, the data management method further comprising the steps of:

generating link information for linking the original data and said other derivative data and editing information representing the content of the editing processing to generate said other derivative data from the original data; and

attaching the link information and the editing information to the original data and said other derivative data as accompanying information thereof.

16. (New) A data management method, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the data management method further manages another derivative data which is generated through editing processing on the original data, the data management method further comprising the steps of:

generating link information for linking said derivative data and said other derivative data and editing information representing the content of the editing processing to generate said other derivative data from said derivative data; and

attaching the link information and the editing information to said derivative data and said other derivative data as accompanying information thereof.